

The expansion and growth of Silicon Valley spread the Japanese-American community far and wide, but the culture and vitality of this community remains. The California State Legislature has paid special attention to the area, officially designating it a historical Japantown.

Japantown is the site of the newly rebuilt Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the famous San Jose Taiko ensemble, the world renowned Shuei-do Manju Shop, confectioners, the Nichi Bei Bussan Japanese goods store, handmade tofu at San Jose Tofu and a variety of restaurants, professional services, and community organizations, such as the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center and the Japanese American Citizens League, and smaller retail shops. Japantown is also home to a number of non-Japanese businesses, including Mexican, Hawaiian, Cuban and Korean restaurants.

Among the numerous houses of worship in Japantown, two churches founded by Japanese Americans well over a century ago continue to thrive in the community, Wesley United Methodist Church and San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

San Jose Japantown's most unique and charming feature is the harmony between generations-old businesses and new ventures. A spirit of cooperation pervades the neighborhood, and merchants who might compete in business share a sense of friendship that leads them to strive for the betterment of the community.

A critical part of the Japantown community is the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose which partners with the City of San Jose to look after cultural preservation in the area. Each year brings many festivals, major ones include Obon, every July, Nikkei Matsuri, every spring, Aki Matsuri, every fall, and a newer festival: The Spirit of Japantown Festival (also in the fall). Japantown also features many street venues such as a year-round Certified Farmers Market run by the Japantown Business Association and events open to the public at the Art Object Gallery.

It is my honor to congratulate the Japantown community on its 120th anniversary. I am sure the partnerships and collaborations within and around Japantown will lead to many more years of prosperity and success.

CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Constitution Day was Senator Byrd's Day.

Having just finished drafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was stopped in the street as he left Independence Hall in Philadelphia where delegates from thirteen former colonies had been meeting the summer of 1787. "Dr. Franklin, what form of government have you given us?" a concerned citizen asked. "A republic, Madam," said Franklin; quickly adding, "If you can keep it."

Throughout Robert C. Byrd's life he was a proud keeper and guardian of two sets of laws, one laid down in our Bible (the King James Version), the other rooted in our federal Constitution.

Senator Byrd was a largely self-taught man. He cherished learning, a process he continued

throughout his life, and he made sure that countless Americans would get an annual lesson, a civic reminder about our Constitution each September 17th. Senator Byrd authored the law that now requires all institutions receiving federal funding to celebrate the venerable document in a meaningful and instructive way.

Dr. Ray Smock, director of the Byrd Center, the repository for Senator Byrd's papers and a center for the study of Congress in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, recently shared some insights with me in advance of our celebration of the Constitution this September 17th, which serve to remind us that Senator Byrd's values are as timeless as his work for West Virginia was tireless.

At the Byrd Center, among the collection of thousands of pages of Senator Byrd's work, rests the Bible he held when he was sworn in as President Pro Tem of the Senate on Jan. 3rd, 1989. That Bible, like others that were in his possession, was heavily underlined on almost every page. Sometimes he would write in the margin: "Memorize This." He wrote two quotations on the inside front cover of this particular Bible:

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Proverbs 22:28

And, "We speak much about what matters little; we speak little about what matters much." We are not sure of the source of this quotation, but the fact the Senator placed it here, shows us how important it was to him.

When you think about it, even a little bit, both quotations are relevant to Constitution Day. Certainly, to the Senator, one of the great ancient landmarks had to have been the U.S. Constitution. No one defended it better or more eloquently than Senator Byrd.

In the hard times we find ourselves right now, there are some prognosticators who argue that the Constitution needs to be overhauled. A recent article in Harper's magazine even suggested that the Senate is an anachronism and should be abolished.

Senator Byrd spent a lifetime defending the wisdom of our Founding Fathers and the government they created. He understood from his Bible and his Constitution that mankind was not perfect. And no government conceived by man is going to be perfect either. But he believed in the genius of the Constitution, which has served us well for more than two centuries.

He loved the Federalist Essays, and read them thoroughly from cover to cover, memorizing key passages. These 85 essays on the nature of the American government penned by James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton were collectively the single best source Senator Byrd used to form his understanding of the intent of the Founders when they penned the Constitution. He quoted the Federalist papers frequently.

Among his favorite passages was in Federalist 51, in which James Madison wrote:

But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

The other quotation in the Senator's Bible, "We speak much about what matters little, we

speak little about what matters much" gets to the heart of a lot that is wrong with our public discourse these days. The 24/7 news machine, the Internet, and talk radio, devote vast amounts of time speaking about what matters little, and not enough talking about the things that matter most. We all feel that government could work better. The question is in how to make that happen. We must not surrender to bumper-sticker politics that entice one to believe that solutions to great challenges are simple and quick.

The legacy of Senator Byrd's life suggests that we all need to be more responsible in making government work. Citizens and those who are elected need to put aside the extremes of partisanship to effectively address the complex needs of the country.

Senator Byrd was in awe of the Founders for their ability to set aside their partisanship and work to build a nation. He admired the Framers of the Constitution for their understanding of history and of human nature. While he could play partisan politics with the best of them and while he was loyal and dedicated to West Virginia, he never forgot that his role as a Senator was to look out for the whole nation, not just one party, or one place. It is certain that he would agree that our Constitution does not need changing so much as our moral compass needs adjusting.

Let us "remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set," and let us all follow Senator Byrd's example of keeping our perspective on the things that matter much, and not get lost wasting our time on those that matter little. Senator Byrd is gone now, but our job to work to keep this Republic is an ongoing duty, one that each generation must take up so our Union can endure, and prosper.

I will be visiting Boone County to celebrate our Constitution and the invaluable lessons Senator Byrd left with us. Constitution Day was dear to Senator Byrd's heart because it was a day of reflection on the very thing that does matter much to the future of this nation.

To learn more about the Byrd Center, its collection and programs, please visit its Web site at: www.byrdcenter.org. Ray Smock is Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV, and is a former Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT J. WINCHESTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE U.S. ARMY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Army veteran, Mr. Robert J. Winchester, who has served his Nation, the U.S. Army, and the military intelligence community with unwavering commitment and professionalism. This Friday, September 17th, his friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers will gather to recognize 26 years of exceptional service to the Army.

Mr. Winchester began his distinguished public service career in 1969 as an Army intelligence analyst stationed in Vietnam. Honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1971,